

## **Minutes**

### **Asheville City Council - Public Safety Committee February 12, 2008 – 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fourth Floor Municipal Building Training Room**

**Present:** Council Members: Vice Mayor Jan Davis, Chair  
Staff: Jeff Richardson, William Hogan, Greg Grayson, Tim Splain, Curt Euler, Trisha Hardin  
Guest: Joe Grady  
Absent: Mayor Terry Bellamy

- **Approval of January Minutes**
  - The January meeting minutes could not be approved due to lack of a quorum.
- **DSU/Patrol/Housing Authority Monthly Report**
  - Chief Hogan provided a handout.
  - There was a large marijuana bust.
  - Significant seizures of Mexican methamphetamine have been made.
  - Seizures of legally-prescribed pharmaceuticals have been significant.
  - There have been significant currency seizures.
  - Arrests of habitual felons have increased which will allow for longer incarcerations.
  - When arrests are made, items of value that have been obtained with illegally-gotten gains are seized which should serve as a deterrent to other criminals.
  - The committee would like to see graphs showing trends over time.
- **Civil Penalty Options with Prostitution – Council Policy Initiative**
  - Consideration has been given to creating an additional Class 3 misdemeanor whereby a person is banned from certain areas; however, this may be hard to regulate due to variances and will require a large amount of staff maintenance due to due process, appeals, etc.
  - The Legal Division will perform a pro/con analysis.
  - It was pointed out that violations of a Class 3 misdemeanor require 5 arrests to even be considered for incarceration.
  - There was discussion regarding publication on the City website of arrested persons. It was stated that sometimes arrest alone can cause a person to harm themselves, sometimes fatally.
  - A concern was stated regarding driving prostitution into neighborhoods or displacing it into other locations, which would be an undesirable consequence of these efforts.

- This item will be on the agenda again in June with an update at the end of the 2007-08 fiscal year.
- **Ban on Sex Offenders in Parks**
  - Two arrests were made in the Pritchard Park area of persons who were recognized by citizens.
  - The North Carolina Court of Appeals upheld the Woodfin ordinance.
- **Gang Activity and Culturally-Supported Misbehavior**
  - A handout was provided by Captain Tim Splain.
  - Henderson County has gang investigators.
  - Officers Mike Lamb and Louis Tomasetti are working to establish a gang taskforce to enhance information sharing and establish cooperative gang investigations between area agencies. The first meeting of this taskforce is Thursday, February 14, 2008 and will involve gang investigators and supervisors from: APD, Buncombe County Sheriffs Department, Henderson County Sheriffs Department, NC Department of Probation and Parole, and the Buncombe County District Attorney's Office. Other agencies that have been invited to attend include: NC Alcohol Law Enforcement, NC State Bureau of Investigation, FBI, ATF, DEA, McDowell County Sheriffs Department, and the Black Mountain Police Department. There was a desire on the part of the committee to bring this before Council.
  - Four officers will be participating in Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT).
  - Captain Splain has been very instrumental in this initiative.
- **Other Business**
  - Performance data on Stations 10 and 11 will be presented in the future.
  - The 911 Communications Center continues to move ahead.
- **Public Comment**
  - Joe Grady made a presentation regarding an "Internet Safety" Symposium to be held on Saturday, April 5, 2008 from 9 am to 12 pm.
  - The symposium will be sponsored by I-Safe and will address such issues as cyber bullying and internet predators.
  - I-Safe wants to educate the community about internet bandits and will bring together a panel of experts to discuss internet predators. Over 400 participants are expected.
  - Mayor Bellamy has expressed an interest in making Asheville an I-Safe city.
  - A donation of at least \$500 is requested from the City in support of this program.

- A suggestion was made that these funds might come from the Community Relations Outreach budget and Mr. Grady was asked to make a presentation to Council on February 19, 2008.
- **Meeting Adjournment**
  - The meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.
- **Next Meeting**
  - Tuesday, March 11, 2008 – 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm in the Municipal Building 4<sup>th</sup> floor training room.
- **Tentative Agenda for Tuesday, March 11, 2008**
  - The committee asked that the following items be placed on next month's agenda:
    - Approval of January and February Committee Minutes
    - DSU/Patrol/Housing Authority Monthly Report (recurring monthly agenda item)
    - Ban on Sex Offenders in Parks
    - Gang Activity and Culturally-Supported Misbehavior
    - Public Comment
- **Future Agenda Items**
  - Adult Bookstores
  - Strategies for Strengthening Relations with Court Systems
  - Update on Pursuit Policy Changes
  - Civil Penalty Options with Prostitution – Council Policy Initiative (June)